UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

ANTHONY MENDES AND DORIS MENDES,	Civil Action No.
Plaintiffs,	05 cv 11765 DPW
V.	RECEIPT #
CENDANT MORTGAGE,	AMOUNT \$ \$50.00 SUMMONS ISSUED NA LOCAL RULE 4.1
Defendant.) WAIVER FORM MCF ISSUED
MBB	DATE SACA COS
TRATE JUDGE (1818) NOTICE O	FREMOVAL

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Please take notice that pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, and 1446, Defendant Cendant Mortgage ("Cendant") hereby removes to this Court the above-captioned action pending in the Superior Court Department of the Trial Court, Bristol County, Massachusetts. In support of removal, Cendant alleges as follows:

- 1. Plaintiffs, Anthony and Doris Mendes (the "Plaintiffs") instituted this civil action, entitled Anthony Mendes and Doris Mendes v. Cendant Mortgage, Civil Action. No. 05-809-B, pending in the Superior Court Department of the Trial Court, Bristol County, Massachusetts (the "Action") on July 25, 2005. A copy of the Complaint and Civil Action Cover Sheet filed in the Action are annexed hereto as Exhibits A and B, respectively. Plaintiffs assert claims for damages arising from Cendant's alleged breach of contract and unfair and deceptive acts in violation of section 2 of Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 93A, in failing to finance the purchase of a new home. As stated in the Civil Action Cover Sheet, Plaintiffs assert over \$200,000 in damages as a result of Cendant's alleged misconduct.
 - 2. A copy of the Complaint was received by Cendant on August 1, 2005.

Filed 08/26/2005

- 3. This petition is being filed within thirty (30) days of the date on which Cendant received the Complaint. This petition is also being filed within one year of the commencement of the Action and is therefore timely filed under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) and Rule 6(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 4. This action is a civil action of which this Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332, and is one which may be removed to this Court by defendant Cendant pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1441, et seq., because it is a civil action between citizens of different states and the amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 5. No prior application for the same or similar relief has been made to this or to any other court.
- 6. Complete diversity of citizenship exists as between the plaintiff and defendant.
- 7. As set forth in the complaint, Plaintiffs reside at 895 School Street, Mansfield, Massachusetts. See Exhibit A, ¶ 1.
- 8. Defendant Cendant is, and was at the time of the institution of this civil action, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New Jersey, with its principal place of business located in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. Cendant is not now, and was not at the time of the filing of the Complaint, a citizen or resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 9. The amount in controversy in this action exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interests or costs. As set forth in the Civil Action Cover Sheet, Plaintiffs seek damages over \$200,000. See Exhibit B.

10. Plaintiff's claims will undoubtedly exceed \$75,000.00. Accordingly, the jurisdictional amount required by 28 U.S.C. § 1332 is satisfied.

WHEREFORE, defendant Cendant Mortgage respectfully requests that the above-captioned action be removed from the Superior Court Department of the Trial Court, Bristol County, Massachusetts, to this Court.

Respectfully submitted,

CENDANT MORTGAGE, By Its Attorney,

Thomas I. Elkind, BBO #153080

Andrew K. Goldstein, BBO #552239

Foley & Lardner LLP 111 Huntington Avenue

Boston, Massachusetts 02199

(617) 342-4000

Dated: August 26, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Thomas I. Elkind, hereby certify that on this 26th day of August, 2005, I caused the foregoing Defendant's Notice of Removal to be served by first class mail, postage paid, upon the plaintiff's attorney:

Christopher J. Trombetta Law Office of Christopher J. Trombetta 310 North Main Street Mansfield, MA 02048

Thomas I. Elkind, Esq

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BRISTOL, ss.			SUPERIOR COURT
		*	
ANTHONY MENDES		*	
AND DORIS MENDES,		*	
		*	
	Plaintiffs,	*	Civil Action No.:
		*	
v.		*	
		*	
CENDANT MORTGAGE,		*	
•		*	
	Defendant.	*	,
•			

COMPLAINT

In this action Plaintiffs, Anthony and Doris Mendes, seek recovery of more than \$360,000 from Defendant, Cendant Mortgage, based on Plaintiffs' inability to purchase an income producing property because of Cendant's breach of its agreement to provide financing. Cendant's actions also constitute violations of Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 93A.

PARTIES

- Plaintiffs, Anthony and Doris Mendes, are married and reside at 895 School
 Street, Mansfield, Massachusetts.
- Defendant, Cendant Mortgage ("Cendant"), is an entity which provides home equity financing. Upon information and belief, Cendant maintains a place of business at 3000 Leodenhall Road, Mount Laurel, New Jersey.

THE ALLEGATIONS

3. Mr. and Mrs. Mendes sought home equity financing from Cendant.

6/2005

- 4. Cendant directed Mr. and Mrs. Mendes to apply for an FHA loan. Mr. and Mrs. Mendes did so only because Cendant directed them to do so. Mr. and Mrs. Mendes were first time home buyers and relied on the advice of Cendant.
- 5. Cendant completed a loan application for Mr. and Mrs. Mendes. A true and accurate copy of the application completed by them is attached as Exhibit A.
- 6. Thereafter, Cendant pre-approved a mortgage in the amount of \$307,545. This mortgage contemplated an interest rate of 7.125 percent. A true and accurate copy of this proposal is allocated as Exhibit B.
 - 7. The letter granting \$307,545 in the pre-approved financing stated:

We're pleased to tell you that you've been approved for a mortgage loan in the amount of \$307,545.00. From here on, getting the home you want will be as easy as 1-2-3. We'll be with you all the way, from the application process right through closing.

Now that your application is already completed and on file with us, all you need to do is find your dream home. As soon as you do, simply call us at 1-800-2 36-3268, Ext. 84853, to give us the property address, and we'll make sure your loan closes right on time – guaranteed. You can use it to call us 7 days a week with any questions about your mortgage process.

Mr. and Mrs. Mendes Select a Home

- 8. After receiving this letter, Mr. and Mrs. Mendes then located the home which they desired to purchase. The home was located at 1-3 Chilson Street, Mansfield, Massachusetts. This home contained two apartments which they intended to lease. The rental amounts that they would have received amounted to more than \$1,500 per month.
- 9. They then executed a purchase and sale agreement knowing that they had been pre-approved for a mortgage in an amount sufficient to purchase the property. A true and accurate copy of the purchase and sale agreement is attached as Exhibit C.

Filed **28/26/2005**

- 10. The agreed to sales price was \$305,000. Mr. and Mrs. Mendes intended to finance \$296,000, which was \$11,545 less than the pre-approved loan amount of \$307,545.
 - 11. The parties scheduled closing to occur in August 2001.

Cendant Refuses To Finance

- 12. On the day of the closing, however, Cendant informed Mr. and Mrs. Mendes that it would not provide them with financing.
- 13. Cendant contended that rents associated with the property to be purchased would not be high enough to satisfy FHA requirements.
- 14. FHA requirements did not require the rents even to exist, never mind be higher.
- 15. Mr. and Mrs. Mendes generated sufficient income through employment to qualify for the mortgage.
- 16. Because of Cendant's refusal to provide financing, Mr. and Mrs. Mendes could not consummate their purchase of the property which they had selected.
- 17. The owners of 1-3 Chilson Street then sold that property within thirty days of the date on which Mr. and Mrs. Mendes indicated that they could not purchase the property based on the unexpected and wrongful loss of guaranteed financing.

Mr. and Mrs. Mendes Are Forced to Purchase A Different Property That Does Not Produce Income

18. Following the demise of Mr. and Mrs. Mendes' attempt to purchase 1-3 Chilson Avenue, they located a one family dwelling also in Mansfield. They agreed to purchase their home for \$269,000.

Filed 08/26/2005

- 19. To purchase the home, Mr. and Mrs. Mendes qualified for a mortgage in the amount of \$256,400. This interest rate on this loan was 8.625%.
- 20. Mr. and Mrs. Mendes qualified for this loan without any representation that the property would generate income.
- 21. The principle and interest payments associated with a \$256,400 mortgage at 8.625 percent produces essentially the same principal and interest payment as for a \$297,000 loan with an interest rate of 7.125 percent.
- 22. The addition of rental income to be received by Mr. and Mrs. Mendes to the home located at 1-3 Chilson Street would have provided additional income which would have further enabled their ability to pay the \$297,000 mortgage on the Chilson Street property.

Cendant's Contentions After Failing To Provide Financing

- 23. Mr. and Mrs. Mendes later claimed that Cendant's acted wrongfully in refusing to provide financing as to the purchase of 1-3 Chilson Street.
- 24. In response, Cendant claimed that it had proposed that Mr. and Mrs. Mendes utilize conventional financing at or about Cendant refused to provide financing guaranteed by the FHA.
 - 25. Cendant never made any such proposal.

COUNT I (Breach of Contract)

26. Mr. and Mrs. Mendes incorporate the allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 25 as if fully set forth herein.

- 27. Cendant agreed to provide Mr. and Mrs. Mendes with \$307,545 in financing to purchase a home.
 - 28. Cendant breached that agreement by refusing to provide the insurance.
- 29. As a result of that breach, Mr. and Mrs. Mendes suffered damages exceeding \$120,000.

COUNT II (Breach of Implied Contract)

- 30. Mr. and Mrs. Mendes incorporated the allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 29 as if fully set forth herein.
- 31. Cendant represented that it would provide home financing in the amount of \$307,545.
- 32. As a result of this representation, Mr. and Mrs. Mendes did not look for alternative financing, executed an agreement to purchase 1-3 Chilson Street, and paid a \$9,000 deposit.
- 33. Cendant indicated after execution of the purchase and sale agreement as to 1-3 Chilson Street that it would not provide financing.
- 34. As a result of Cendant's refusal to provide financing, Mr. and Mrs. Mendes suffered damages in excess of \$120,000.

COUNT III (Violation of Chapter 93A)

- 35. Mr. and Mrs. Mendes incorporated the allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 34 as if fully set forth herein.
 - 36. Cendant is engaged in trade and commerce.

Filed <u>08</u>/26/2005

- 37. Cendant committed unfair and deceptive acts in violation of Section 2 of Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 93A.
- 38. Such actions include, but are not limited to, Cendant's refusal to provide financing to Mr. and Mrs. Mendes and its misrepresentation that it offered to provide conventional financing to them.
 - 39. Cendant's actions were willful.
- 40. As a result of Cendant's unfair and deceptive acts and policies, Mr. and Mrs. Mendes have suffered monetary damages exceeding \$360,000 and emotional harm as well.

WHEREFORE, Mr. and Mrs. Mendes pray that the Court:

- Enter judgment in favor of Mr. and Mrs. Mendes and against Cendant on Count I in an amount to be determined at trial;
- 2. Enter judgment in favor of Mr. and Mrs. Mendes and against Cendant on Count II in an amount to be determined at trial;
- Enter judgment in favor of Mr. and Mrs. Mendes and against Cendant on
 Count III in an amount to be determined at trial said amount to be trebled, and award attorneys' fees;
- Award Mr. and Mrs. Mendes interest and costs, which include attorneys' fees;
 - 5. Award such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

ANTHONY AND DORIS MENDES DEMAND A TRIAL BY JURY ON ALL CLAIMS SO TRIABLE.

ANTHONY AND DORIS MENDES

By their attorney, LAW OFFICE OF CHRISTOPHER J. TROMBETTA

Filed 08/26/2005

Christopher J. Trombetta (BBO# 556923) 310 North Main Street, Suite 6

Mansfield, MA 02048

(508) 339-5900

Dated: July 25, 2005

	4.4					
CIVIL ACTION COVER SHEET	SUPERIOR COU	of Massachusetts IRT DEPARTMENT Bristol	Docket Number			
PLAINTIFF(S) Anthony and	l Doris Mendes	DEFENDANT(S) Cendant	Mortgage			
ATTORNEY, FIRM NAME, ADDRE Law Office of Christo Christopher J. Trombe Board of Bar Overseers number: S	tta: 310 N. Main					
	Origin code and t	rack designation				
Place an x in one box only: [x] 1. F01 Original Complaint [2. F02 Removal to Sup.Ct. c. 231, s.104 (Before trial) (F) [3. F03 Retransfer to Sup.Ct. C.231,s.102C(X) [4. F04 District Court Appeal c.231, s. 97 &104 (After trial) (X) [5. F05 Reactivated after rescript; relief from judgment/ Order (Mass.R.Civ.P. 60) (X) [6. E10 Summary Process Appeal (X)						
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B. Documented lost wages C. Documented property do D. Reasonably anticipated E. Reasonably anticipated F. Other documented items	penses to date: ises penses penses py expenses s (describe) and compensation to damages to date future medical and hosp lost wages s of damages (describe)	heets as necessary) ate bital expenses	Subtotal \$ Subtotal \$ \$ \$ \$			
Provide a detailed description	(Attach additional st of claim(s): Breach	TCLAIMS neets as necessary) of Contract to Financing	More TOTAL \$.than			
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"I hereby certify that I have co Uniform Rules on Dispute Res about court-connected dispute disadvantages of the various Signature of Attorney of Reco	solution (SJC Rule 1:18) resolution services and methods."	requiring that I provide my	clients with information			
- A.O.S.C. 2003						

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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SJS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS		
Anthony Mendes and Doris Mendes			Cendant Mortgage		
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(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff Bristol, MA		County of Residence o	f First Listed Defendant	
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(c) Attorney's (Firm Name.	, Address, and Telephone Number)		Attorneys (If Known)		
	betta, 310 North Main Street, Suite 6, Ma	nsfield	1	in, Thomas Elkind, Fole	ev & Lardner LLP
MA 02048. Tel ph:		distroid,		e., Boston, MA 02199 T	
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	ш. с		RINCIPAL PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
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Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citiz	en of This State	1 1 Incorporated or Pr	incipal Place 🔲 4 🔲 4
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only)	Fo	oreign Country		
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☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 362 Personal Injury ☐ 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractic		620 Other Food & Drug 625 Drug Related Seizure	☐ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability 365 Personal Injury	-	of Property 21 USC 881	28 030 137	450 Commerce
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	☐ 320 Assault, Libel & Product Liability Slander ☐ 368 Asbestos Person		630 Liquor Laws	PROPERTY RIGHTS	460 Deportation
☐ 151 Medicare Act	330 Federal Employers' Injury Product		640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs.	☐ 820 Copyrights ☐ 830 Patent	470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
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Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	☐ 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPEI ☐ 345 Marine Product ☐ 370 Other Fraud		Safety/Health 690 Other		490 Cable/Sat TV 810 Selective Service
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☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage Product Liability ☐ 385 Property Damage	° -	Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	☐ 862 Black Lung (923) ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	☐ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
195 Contract Product Liability	☐ 360 Other Personal Product Lizbility		730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting	☐ 864 SSID Title XVI	☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions
☐ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY	Injury CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIC		& Disclosure Act	☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts
210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIC 441 Voting 510 Motions to Vaca		740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation	FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters
220 Foreclosure	☐ 442 Employment Sentence		791 Empl. Ret. Inc.	or Defendant)	☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land	Accommodations		Security Act	☐ 871 IRS—Third Party	☐ 895 Freedom of Information
245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations			26 USC 7609	Act 900Appeal of Fee Determination
290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - ☐ 540 Mandamus & O	ther			Under Equal Access
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V. ORIGIN (Place	an "X" in One Box Only)				Appeal to District
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of cause: Breach of Contract		h		
VII. REQUESTED IN	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTIO	N D	EMAND \$	CHECK YES only	if demanded in complaint:
COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P. 23			JURY DEMAND:	🗷 Yes 🗆 No
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